

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OMB-01 /067 W
-----030137 010814Z /20

P R 010651Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6475
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 6515

EO 11652GDS
TAGS: PINT PL UR
SUBJ: ANTI-GIEREK GRAFFITI IN WARSAW

1. AN EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE REPORTED JULY 31 THAT THE WALL OF A WARSAW BUILDING DIRECTLY OPPOSITE THE MILITIA HEADQUARTERS AND PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE WAS DAUBED WITH THE SLOGAN "GIEREK, STOP SELLING POLAND TO RUSSIA*"
THE SLOGAN, HE SAID, REMAINED IN PLACE FOR ABOUT A DAY AND A HALF BEFORE SOMEONE IN AUTHORITY APPARENTLY TOOK NOTICE. THE, ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL, THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE MILITIA BUILDING WAS CLOSED OFF COMPLETELY, AND BUSES AND STREETCARS STOPPED OR REROUTED, WHILE THE OFFENDING SLOGAN WAS REMOVED. THE EMBASSY LOCAL ADDED THAT HE HAD SEEN "TEN OR A DOZEN" SIMILAR GRAFFITI AROUND WARSAW IN RECENT DAYS.

2. COMMENT: AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, NO AMERICAN MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY HAS SPOTTED SUCH GRAFITTI AROUND TOWN. HOWEVER, THE "SELLOUT TO THE SOVIETS" THEME, SOMETIMES TIED TO GIEREK PERSONALLY, SOMETIMES NOT, HAS BECOME A NOTICEABLY MORE PROMINENT ELEMENT IN PUBLIC GRUMBLING OF LATE. THERE ALSO WAS AN
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INTRIGUING PIECE OF GOSSIP THAT THE JUNE RESIGNATION OF KATOWICE VOIVODA STANISLAW KIERMASZEK, REPORTED IN THE PRESS TO HAVE BEEN FOR HEALTH REASONS, ACTUALLY STEMMED FROM A SPEECH BY KIERMASZEK AT A PARTY MEETING IN WHICH HE ASSAILED GIEREK FOR UNDULY KNUCKLING UNDER TO THE SOVIETS.

3. IF THE IMPRESSION OF GIEREK AS MERELY A SOVIET
TOOL SPREADS SIGNIFICANTLY, IT WOULD OF COURSE TEND
FURTHER TO REDUCE THE FIRST PARTY SECRETARY'S STATURE WITH
THE POLISH PUBLIC. IT MIGHT, HOWEVER, PARADOXICALLY
BOLSTER HIS SUPPORT FROM THE SOVIETS, WHO PRESUMABLY
WOULD BE EXTRA-RELUCTANT TO ABANDON A LEADER IDENTIFIED
AS "ONE OF THEIRS" TO THE ATTACKS OF THOSE CONDEMINING
HIM ON THOSE VERY GROUNDS. END COMMENT.
SCHAUFEELE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WARSAW06515
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780314-0238
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808110/aaaadojl.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ceb01759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1571240
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTI-GIEREK GRAFFITI IN WARSAW
TAGS: PINT, PL, UR, (GIEREK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ceb01759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014